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Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MO

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MARCH 11 MEETING WITH MOROCCAN
FOREIGN MINISTER: THE HORN

1. AT CONCLUSION OF SECRETARY'S MARCH 11 MEETING WITH MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOUCETTA (SEE SEPTEL FOR OTHER DETAILS), SECRETARY RAISED SITUATION IN HORN, NOTING THAT SOMALIS HAD WITHDRAWN FROM TWO-THIRDS OF OGADEN AND NO ONE, INCLUDING SOMALIS, KNEW HOW MANY PEOPLE THEY HAD LEFT IN THE REMAINING THIRD. SECRETARY SAID HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SOVIETS AND OTHERS WITHIN PREVIOUS 24 HOURS URGING
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THEM TO SUPPORT ACTION IN OAU WHICH WOULD LEAD TO STATIONING OF O0SERVERS TO PREVENT REPRISALS.

2. SECRETARY URGED BOUCETTA TO USE MOROCCO'S INFLUENCE WITHIN OAU TO GET A PROMPT REACTION FROM AFRICAN NATIONS. BECAUSE OAU TAKES SO LONG TO DO ANYTHING, U.S. WANTED TO TAKE ISSUE TO SECURITY COUNCIL TO GET ACTION, BUT THIS

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WOULD BE UNWISE, AND INDEED IMPOSSIBLE, UNLESS APPROVED BY OAU. U.S. HOPED OAU QUICKLY WOULD CONSIDER PROBLEM AND RAPIDLY DISCUSS ITS RESOLUTION, RECOGNIZING THAT BOTH SIDES MUST RESPECT THE BORDER.

3. CONTINUING, SECRETARY SAID HE HAD TOLD SOMALIS THAT IF THEY WITHDRAW ALL THEIR FORCES FROM OGADEN AND GIVE ASSURANCES THAT DEFENSIVE WEAPONS WILL BE USED ONLY IN SOMALIA, ADMINISTRATION WILL CONSULT WITH CONGRESS WITH OBJECTIVE OF PROVIDING SUCH ARMS. U.S. ALSO WILL PLAN FURNISH ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN AID TO SOMALIA AND WILL BE READY TO GIVE HUMANITARIAN AID TO PEOPLE OF OGADEN. CONCLUDING HIS REMARKS, SECRETARY UNDERLINED NEED FOR URGENT ACTION.

4. FONMIN EXPRESSED MOROCCO'S CONCERN AT PRESENCE OF SOVIETS AND CUBANS AND ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS FOR ARAB AND AFRICAN NATIONS, MENTIONING MOROCCO DOING WHAT IT COULD TO COUNTER THIS PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THAT SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA ESSENTIAL.

5. SECRETARY THEN INFORMED BOUCETTA U.S. HAD COMMITMENTS FROM ETHIOPIANS AND SOVIETS THAT THEY WOULD NOT CROSS FRONTIER BUT COULD NOT TELL OF THESE ENGAGEMENTS WOULD BE RESPECTED, EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE SOLEMN COMMITMENTS. U.S. ALSO HAD INDIRECT WORD FROM CUBANS THEY WOULD NOT CROSS

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FRONTIER BUT WAS UNCERTAIN THIS PLEDGE WOULD BE HONORED. SOVIETS HAD INDICATED THEY WOULD USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO SEE THAT CUBANS DID NOT CROSS BORDER. MEETING ENDED AS BOUCETTA REITERATED MOROCCAN CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA. VANCE

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